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Immunity for 2 who worked for Secord tightens probe

By Michael Hedges
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Senate investigators are closing in on retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal who has refused to testify before congressional bodies.

Yesterday, the Senate select committee probing the Iranian arms sales and diversion of funds to Nicaraguan resistance forces voted to seek limited immunity from prosecution for two women who worked for a Secord company.

In recent weeks, investigators for the panel have traveled to London, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Denmark, tracing the money

trail from the Middle East to Central America, according to Lance Morgan, a spokesman for the committee.

Mr. Morgan said investigators are "on track for getting a handle on the money in a few weeks."

A source in Copenhagen, Denmark, said the investigators interrogated him about a freighter chartered by Gen. Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim, to ship arms to Iran.

Henrik Berlau, an executive in the Danish Seaman's Union, told The Washington Times last week that Joel Lisker, an investigator working for the committee, questioned him extensively about a series of arms shipments from Israel to Iran that

occurred between August 1985 and November 1986, during which a total of 18,000 tons of arms were delivered to Tehran.

Congressional investigators also are probing ties between Gen. Secord and the CIA, including an alleged purchase by the agency of \$1.2 million in arms from Gen. Secord, according to a published report.

A foreign bank account form filed for 1985 by a Secord company, Energy Resources International, contained the phone number of a clandestine CIA office in Washington.

The document describes six foreign bank accounts held by Energy Resources through a subsidiary, Amalgamated Commercial En-

terprises.

Gen. Secord repeatedly has refused to talk to congressional investigators, leading the Senate to vote last month to file contempt charges against him that they hope will compel him to release banking documents.

Neither Gen. Secord, nor his attorney, Thomas Green, returned calls yesterday.

Congressional probers have said they will not offer Gen. Secord immunity until independent counsel Lawrence Walsh completes his investigation into Gen. Secord's activities.

But the investigators are seeking

to close in on Gen. Secord's story through other means.

Last month, the House and Senate panels voted to grant immunity to Mr. Hakim, who worked closely with Gen. Secord on his Middle Eastern deals.

By granting immunity to Shirley Napier and Joan Corbin yesterday, whom Senate Select Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, Hawaii Democrat, described as "low-level" employees of Gen. Secord's Stanford Technology Trading Group International, the panel hoped to reconstruct business done by that firm.

Stanford Technology is believed to be linked to money supply networks for the Nicaraguan resistance, ac-

cording to congressional sources.

Mr. Inouye said Mr. Walsh did not object to the panel's action, which brings to 12 the number of witnesses voted limited immunity from prosecution by the committees.

After an immunity vote, the committees must get a court order granting immunity, which promises the witnesses they will not be prosecuted for their direct testimony.

So far, three secretaries have been voted immunity in the case. The third is Fawn Hall — former secretary to Lt. Col. Oliver North, the key figure in the scandal — who told investigators she helped destroy documents related to the case.